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Francis Dalby of Blaby (1821-1902) and his family

by Francis Howcutt



Francis Dalby at Pentonville Prison, June 1878

Francis Dalby

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Introduction

This paper sets out the history of my 2x great grandfather Francis Dalby, his wife Lydia Smith (c.1820-1893) and their children.

Thank you to:

- The National Archives (TNA) and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR) for curating and making available parish registers, probate and other historical documents.
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- FreeBMD for transcribing and making freely available indexes of births, marriages and deaths registered in England & Wales.
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¹ <https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>

² <https://web.archive.org/>

Background

Francis, the oldest of the four children of William Dalby (1796-1856) and his wife Ann Worth (1794-1874), was born at Blaby, five miles south of the centre of Leicester, on 22 August 1821.³ His birth was recorded in the register of Blaby Baptist chapel and he was also christened on 10 June 1824 at Bardon Park chapel. These arrangements reflected his father's membership of Blaby Baptist chapel and the affiliation of his mother's family to the Presbyterian cause at Bardon Park. He should not be confused with his cousin who was also named Francis (a son of John Dalby and his wife Mary Wright), who was also born at Blaby and had been christened at the parish church on 8 January 1821. That Francis Dalby married Mary Gooch in 1843 and was buried at Blaby on 25 October 1883.

When Francis was young, Blaby was home to many of his close relations as well as more distant kin. In addition to his parents and siblings, both of his father's parents were living there and the village hosted an array of Francis' uncles, aunts and cousins. The ancestry of Francis as far back as his great grandparents appears in Appendix A.

Between 1811 and 1841, the population of Leicester more than doubled, from 23,453 to 50,853. Francis' parents evidently moved from Blaby to Leicester in 1839, when their church membership was transferred to Harvey Lane Baptist chapel. On 26 October 1840, Francis was admitted to membership of that chapel.⁴ Francis was not residing with his parents when the census was held in June 1841 but recorded as Francis Dalby (in the 15-19 age group), an apprentice in the household of Daniel Quinney, a shoemaker, at Albion Street, Leicester.

Marriage to Ann Worth

Both Francis and his bride, Lydia Smith, daughter of Jesse Smith, a shoemaker, were living at Crab Street (now St Mark's Street) when they married on 23 October 1843. The ceremony took place at the Registrar's office at Leicester. At that time, a civil wedding was very unusual and would often mean that the couple were non-conformists rather than secularists. Eileen, granddaughter of Edwin Dalby, recalled him saying that he was one of 13 children. However, only the following ten children of Francis and Lydia Dalby have been identified:

Name + Dalby	Born	Birthplace	Married	Died
John Edward	1844	Leicester	n/a	1845
Augustus Frederick	1846	London	Hannah Jephcott 1869	1938
Alfred William	1848	Northampton	Emma Elizabeth Cameron 1878	1921
Arthur Henry	1850	Leicester	Sarah Martha Berwick 1874	1910
Elizabeth Louisa	1852	Leicester	William Clode ⁵	1897
Lydia Sarah Ann	1854	Hampshire	John Samuel Goode 1876	1936
Frances Anne	1856	Leicester	n/a	1856
Frank	c.1858	Leicester	Emily Keatley 1881	1919
Emma Jane ⁶	1860	Birmingham	William Hewitt 1881	1943
Edwin	1864	Birmingham	Mary Fearey 1888 Alice Mary (born Graves) Harris 1914	1936

³ See Appendix B.

⁴ ROLLR: 1D66/IV/1 (register of members, number 820).

⁵ No record has been found of the Dalby-Clode marriage but the section below about Elizabeth Louisa Dalby includes evidence for identifying her husband as William Clode.

Occupations

Francis has been recorded with a wide variety of occupations - shoemaker (1843), book carrier (1846), railway porter (1847-8), boot & shoe maker (1851), butcher (1852), gardener (1854), railway watchman (1857), marine store dealer (1858), packer (1860), labourer at iron works (1861), county court bailiff (1864), auctioneer (1864), bailiff (1866 & 1867), carter (1869), pickle maker (1871), aqua fortis dealer (1871), bailiff (1872), gas fitter (1874), bailiff (1878), junk dealer (1887) and dealer in furniture (1890).

It is likely that Francis also had a short career as toll collector. The toll bar known as Spital Gate stood at the junction of the Rugby road with the turnpike road to Market Harborough, just south of the town of Lutterworth. On two occasions early in 1845, its toll collector, whose name was Francis Dalby, was involved in cases heard at Lutterworth petty sessions:

- 23 January 1845 – Francis Dalby charged William Cave, a carrier from Yelvertoft, with having assaulted him on 10 January. Francis said that William came to the gate with a horse and cart, and refused to pay the toll (7¹/₂d), became very abusive and spat at him. The case was heard at Lutterworth Petty Sessions, where the defendant pleaded guilty and expressed his regret. With Francis' agreement, the parties were allowed to come to an arrangement.⁷
- 20 February 1845 – James Leeson, a tramp, was charged by Francis Dalby with using threatening language. On Saturday evening 15 February between five and six o'clock, he came to Francis' house there and asked for charity. On being refused he drew a razor and a knife and threatened to kill Francis, who defended himself with a staff. An old man came in and James withdrew but was afterwards arrested. He was sentenced to hard labour for one month.⁸

Analysis of entries in the 1841 and 1851 censuses strongly indicates that the toll bar keeper was the same person as Lydia Smith's husband.⁹

London

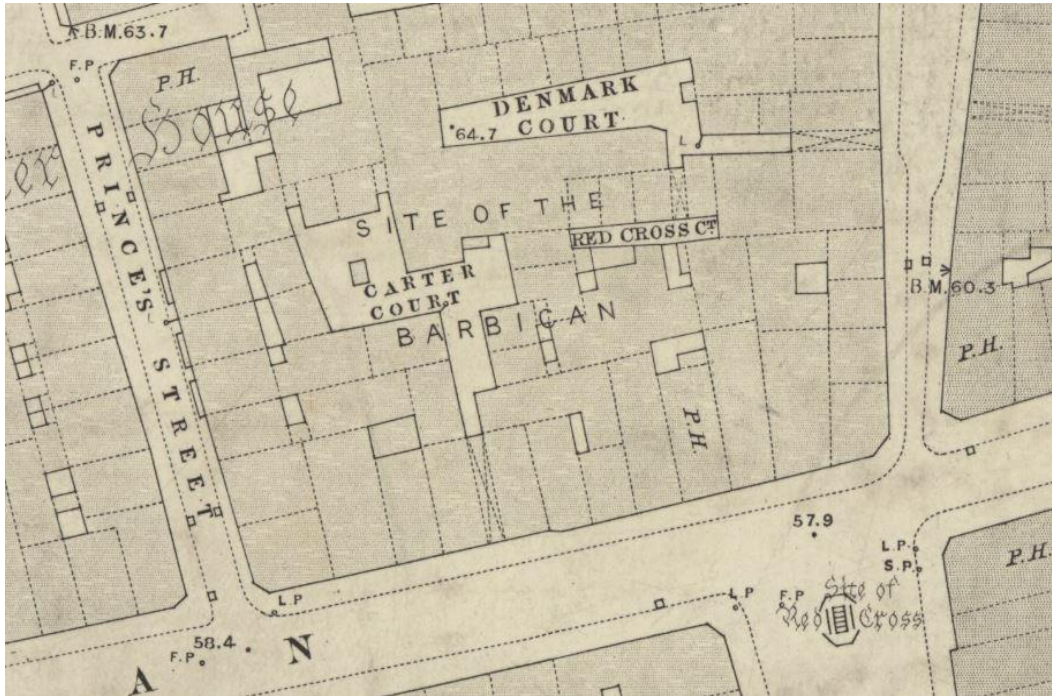
Between the birth and death of their first child, Francis and Lydia moved to a congested area just inside the northern boundary of the City of London. John Edward was one year and four months old when he was buried on 16 November 1845 at the 'City Bunhill Burial Ground, or Golden Lane Cemetery'. At the time, the family's home was at Garter Court (written in the burial record as 'Carter Court'), a dead end that turned off the north side of Barbican (now Beech Street) a short distance to the west of Golden Lane. John Edward was one of 19 people buried at Golden Lane Cemetery on the same day, 13 of them children less than four years

⁷ *Leicester Chronicle*, 1 February 1845, page 3 column 4.

⁸ *Leicestershire Mercury*, 22 February 1845, page 3 column 6.

⁹ The 1841 & 1851 census indexes on Ancestry and FindMyPast have been consulted for males named Francis Dalby living in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire or Warwickshire. Including spelling variations, those found in 1841 were aged 70-74 at Blaby (grandfather of Lydia's husband), aged 20-24 at Blaby (cousin of Lydia's husband), aged 15-19 at Leicester (Lydia's future husband). Those found in 1851 were: aged 30 at Blaby (cousin of Lydia's husband), aged 29 at Leicester (Lydia's husband). The only person with the name other than Lydia's husband who was of a suitable age to have been the toll-bar keeper at Spital Gate in 1845 was his cousin who lived at Blaby. The cousin is recorded in each census from 1841 to 1881 as living at Blaby itself, which indicates that he was considerably less foot-loose than Lydia's husband.

old.¹⁰ The 1851 census records a total of 88 people living as 19 households in Garter Court. The following map dates from 1873 and again records the address as 'Carter Court'; it shows the cramped layout with the only access to the eleven houses in the Court being through a tunnel about 4.5 feet (1.4 metres) wide¹¹:



It was not long before Francis and Lydia moved to the more spacious environment of Grove Street, Camden Town where their son Augustus Frederick was born at number 90 on 20 July 1846. Grove Street ran in a northerly direction from Stanhope Street (now Delancey Street) to James Street (now Jamestown Road), and was a short distance south of Regents Canal. No doubt because of the many other roads in the London area also called Grove Road, Augustus' birthplace has been renamed and is now the northern part of Arlington Road with a different sequence of numbers.

Migration and crime

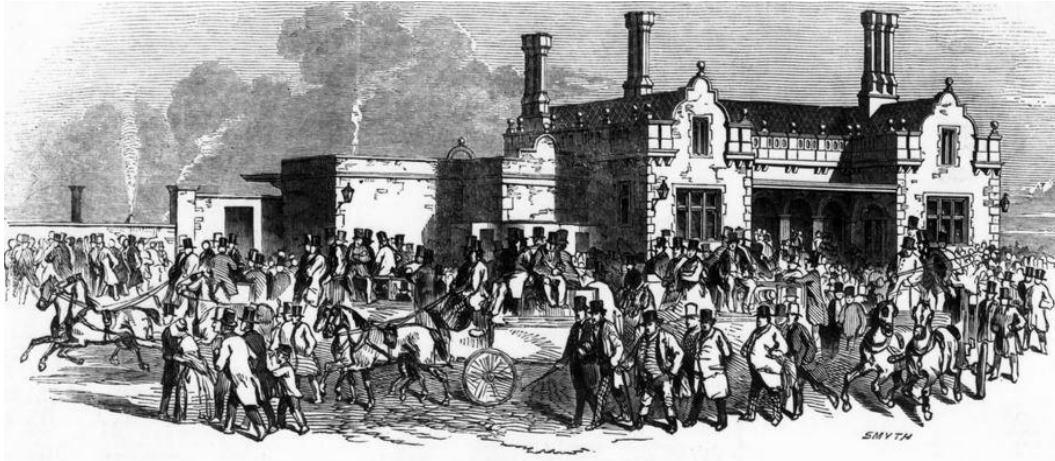
By October 1847, Francis was at Northampton and employed as a porter by the London & North Western Railway Company. In that month, he gave evidence at the Northamptonshire quarter sessions when Samuel Thompson, a fellow porter, was unsuccessfully prosecuted for the alleged theft of 90 walnuts.¹² Francis worked in the goods department of Northampton station at a wage of 18 shillings per week. He was discharged from that post on 21 October of

¹⁰ TNA: RG8/36. John Edward Dalby was buried at a depth of five feet in the Lower burial ground, the reference number being J37 and the fee to the cemetery six shillings. In the early 21st century, the burial ground was redeveloped to provide schools on the Golden Lane Campus. On 25 April 2007, the Islington Gazette reported that 9864 sets of remains and 30 complete coffins were removed from there to St Pancras & Islington Cemetery.

¹¹ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/229950158>

¹² *Northampton Mercury*, 23 October 1847, page 2 column 4.

the same year.¹³ The station, the earliest to operate in the town, was on the west side of Bridge Street and had opened in 1845. It has since been demolished. The engraving of the station that appears below was published by the Illustrated London News in 1847.¹⁴



No doubt helped by the rapidly developing railway system, Francis and Lydia moved home frequently. They appear in the 1851 census at 13 South Church Gate in Leicester close to No. 9 in the same street which was the home of Mary Smith (c.1794-1862), one of Lydia Dalby's aunts. Francis and his family were living at Gartree Street, Leicester when their daughter Elizabeth Louisa was born in the following year.

When their daughter Lydia Sarah Ann was born in November 1854, Francis and his family were living at Millbrook (now part of Southampton and some 135 miles from Leicester), but they returned to Leicester in time for Frances Ann's birth in 1856. The child lived for only one month; when she was buried in the unconsecrated part of Welford Road cemetery on 16 December 1856 the address was recorded as 3 Church Street in St George's parish.¹⁵

In September 1857, Francis was a watchman at Leicester railway station and appeared as a witness in the successful prosecution of James Hudson, who was sentenced to two months imprisonment with hard labour for stealing a quantity of candied lemon peel.¹⁶

In February 1858, Francis was severely criticised by the Mayor of Leicester for failing to appear in court when a Mr Chaplin, whom Francis had apprehended, was charged with stealing a plank of wood. Francis had pleaded sickness but the true reason for his absence was evidently that there was no substance to the allegation.¹⁷

By November 1859, Francis was working as a packer at the premises of James Syson Nibbs, a lamp manufacturer of Harford Street. In that month, he was one of the witnesses when the

¹³ TNA: RAIL 410/1858, page 145. Staff records of the London & North Western Railway.

¹⁴ https://archive.org/details/sim_illustrated-london-news_1847-07-24_11_273/page/60/mode/2up

¹⁵ Burial number 452. In section O, plot number 75.

¹⁶ *Leicestershire Mercury*, 26 September 1857, page 6 column 5.

¹⁷ *Leicester Chronicle*, 13 February 1858, page 5 column 3.

Birmingham police court heard evidence that one Isaac Barnes had stolen a number of lamp burners from his master.¹⁸

Francis's involvement with the courts was not limited to helping with the prosecution of others. 1860 provides the earliest records of Francis himself being in the dock. He was probably the same person as Francis Dalby, who was sentenced on 17 February to one month in the House of Correction for climbing into the yard of a factory in Great Hampton Street where a policeman found him equipped with a key that would open the door of the premises, a jemmy and other housebreaking implements.¹⁹ At the General Quarter Sessions held at Birmingham on 9 April of the same year, he was convicted of 'larceny by a servant' and sentenced to eight months imprisonment with hard labour.²⁰ The Birmingham Journal reported that Francis was accused of stealing nine brass lamp mounts and two oil cans. He had some witnesses to his character and the case was described by the journalist as 'a painful one', a comment that was not elaborated upon.²¹

25 days after his second conviction in 1860, Francis' daughter Emma Jane was born in a property at the back of 16 Harford Street, Birmingham. By the 1861 census, the family had moved again, this time to Bromford Road, Oldbury.

In January 1864, an advertisement was placed by John Macdonald of Birmingham alleging that 280 guns had been forcibly and illegally taken from him by Frederick Mayer and Francis Dalby, his bailiff, under an illegal distraint for rent against one Charles Anderson.²² The outcome of this dispute is not known.

In May 1864, when Francis' last child Edwin was born, the family's home was at 151 Icknield Street East, Ladywood. In the following month, Francis appeared again in court to answer a complaint from Daniel Leonard of overcharging for distraining on his tenant for rent arrears. The court ruled that Francis had indeed overcharged by £1.3s.0d. and inflicted a fine of £3.9s.0d.²³ In March of that year, Francis had entered into a partnership with David Morton, a bleacher of Nottingham, to establish an auctioneering business in Old Meeting Street, where they rented premises as subtenants. After a week, Morton became so dissatisfied with the prospects for the business that he dissolved the partnership and went to Nottingham. Francis sued him at Birmingham County Court for rent and other charges arising against the business after that stage but the verdict, which was given in November, was in favour of Morton.²⁴ David Morton (c.1826-1905) was a son of Daniel Morton and his wife Lois Smith. As Lois was a sister of Jesse Smith, David Morton was a cousin of Francis' wife.

'Francis Dalby, bailiff, of Leicester' was charged at Melton Mowbray petty sessions with trespassing in search of game in the parish of Wymondham on 18 October 1866. The complaint was made by Thomas Gent, a gamekeeper of Stapleford, and resulted in a fine of

¹⁸ *Birmingham Journal*, 12 November 1859, page 7 column 3.

¹⁹ *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, 20 February 1860, page 4 column 5.

²⁰ TNA: HO27/127, folio 140.

²¹ *Birmingham Journal*, 14 April 1860, page 6 column 5.

²² *Birmingham Journal*, 23 January 1864, page 8 column 6.

²³ *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 9 June 1864, page 6 column 5. The newspaper report stated that Francis lived at 150 Icknield Street West.

²⁴ *Nottingham Journal*, 17 November 1864, page 2 column 4.

20 shillings with 16 shillings costs, failing payment of which Francis would be imprisoned for one month.²⁵

On 24 June 1867, Francis was convicted at Birmingham quarter sessions of simple larceny after previous convictions, one being for felony and the other for a misdemeanour. On that occasion, he was sentenced to 18 months in prison.²⁶ He had been working as a bailiff and on 23 April, after levying a distress on Mrs Jane Wright of Lancaster Street, had stolen a large quantity of goods that were her property and that the police discovered in a search of Francis' house.²⁷

On 9 August 1869, Francis and Lydia's oldest surviving son, Augustus Frederick, married Hannah Jephcott at Mount Zion Baptist Chapel, Graham Street. At that time, the groom was living at Great George Street West, so it is possible that other members of the family may have been living there too.

The 1871 census includes Francis and Lydia along with their seven youngest children at 62 Graham Street, All Saints, Birmingham. In August of the same year, Francis was described as an aqua fortis dealer living at 68 Great Hampton Street when he appeared in the magistrate's court charged with stealing a number of planks and other building materials worth £25 from George Clarke, a builder of 73 Icknield Street East. The case dragged on for more than two hours, half the time being wasted according to a newspaper account by the latitude that Francis was allowed in cross-examining the witness. Eventually, he was committed for trial at the quarter sessions²⁸ where on 23 October Francis was acquitted.²⁹

By 1872, Francis had resumed his work as a bailiff. On 1 June he failed to appear at West Bromwich police court to answer a charge that he had unlawfully detailed certain arrears and charges when levying distress on the goods of Robert Allen, an agent of Booth Street, Handsworth and Lichfield Road, Aston. A warrant was issued for Francis' apprehension but the outcome of the case also has not been found.³⁰

An inheritance

Francis' mother, Ann, was the youngest of these children of Edward Worth and his wife Sarah Newberry:

	Born	Married	Died/buried*
Hannah	1788	Joseph Callis 1807	1845* Markfield
Mary	1790	John Gill 1811	
Sarah	1792	Benjamin Read 1817	1869* Markfield
Ann	1794	William Dalby 1820	1874 Leicester
Sarah	1796	Joseph Kelham	1873 Leicestershire

²⁵ *Leicester Journal*, 23 October 1866, page 8, column 4.

²⁶ TNA: HO27/148, folio 81.

²⁷ *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 27 June 1867, p. 6, column 4; also, *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, 29 June 1867, page 7 column 1.

²⁸ *Birmingham Mail*, 24 August 1871, page 2 column 5.

²⁹ TNA: HO27/160, p. 152.

³⁰ *Birmingham Daily Post*, 3 June 1872, page 4 column 5.

A series of documents relate to between eight and nine acres of land at Cart Ruts or Rice Rocks that had been allocated to Francis' grandfather Edward Worth in the Charlwood Forest Enclosure award.³¹ Edward's will, made in 1840, left that land to his daughter Ann Dalby for life, after which it was to be shared equally between her three children who had survived infancy, (Francis, William and Sarah Ann). The will was proved soon after Edward died in 1848.³² In 1858, Francis mortgaged his expectancy in the property to Elizabeth Sherwin, a widow of Coleorton, for £30.

In 1869, Francis along with his mother and his brother William agreed that their interests in the land should be leased to Edwin Willett of Stanton-under-Barden for the life of Ann Dalby and that Willett would have the first option of buying it at £58 per acre.

On 2 January 1872, one of the third shares in the land (subject to Ann's life interest) was offered for sale at auction.³³ A poster advertising the auction can be seen as Appendix C. It is probable that this was Francis' share, as solicitors' letters dating from 1880 within the series of documents state that share was conveyed to William Perry Herrick in 1872, the share of his brother William sold to the same person in June 1875 and the share owned by Eliza Ann Branston not sold as she was a minor. Eliza Ann was the only surviving child of Francis' sister Sarah Ann who had died at 5042 Main Street, Germantown on 16 July 1866.³⁴

On 9 February 1876, Francis was living at 3 Chancery Street, Leicester when he wrote a letter the text of which appears in Appendix D, expressing regret for his misconduct towards W P Herrick concerning the sale of the Worth-Dalby land at Markfield.³⁵

The last conviction

Francis' son, Arthur Henry, was living in Manchester in 1876 when he gave his first child the names 'Francis Arthur', presumably partly in honour of the baby's grandfather. By the end of 1877, Francis also was living in the Manchester area and had resumed his criminal activities. He was taken into custody on 5 March 1878 and charged under the name of Frank Dalby on three counts of stealing. An account of his appearance at the City Police Court was published in the Manchester Times on 9 March 1878 and is set out in Appendix E.

Almost all records from 1878 onwards refer to Francis as Frank, so the latter name is used in connection with events during that part of his life.

Frank's trial took place on 1 May at Manchester General Quarter Sessions, the thefts alleged being:

- On 23 December 1877, one book, two glass dishes, one saucer and one drinking cup, the property of George Hunter
- On 16 October 1877, one opera glass, one strap, and one printed book, the property of Joseph William Hilton

³¹ ROLLR: DG9/329-348

³² TNA: PROB11/2074/73.

³³ *Leicester Guardian*, 27 December 1871, page 1 column 2.

³⁴ Details from her death certificate.

³⁵ The National Portrait Gallery has a photograph of William Perry Herrick (1794-1876).
<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw198329/William-Perry-Herrick>

- On 1 February 1878, three tables, two clocks, one tea chest, two chairs, three sheets, six counterpanes, one blanket, and four trays, the property of Mary Ann Gardiner, and two boxes of tools, two boxes, seven hammers, seven files, eight chisels, one axe, twelve screwkeys, and one pair of pincers, the property of Mary Ann Withers
- On 14 February 1878, two beds, two chairs, two boxes, two carpets, two sheets, one blanket, one bucket and 4½ pounds weight of bacon, the property of the said Mary Ann Gardiner, and two beds, two chairs, two boxes, two carpets, two sheets, one blanket, one bucket and 4 pounds weight of bacon, the property of the said Mary Ann Withers.

Francis pleaded guilty and was convicted of 'larceny after previous conviction for felony'. His punishment this time was seven years penal servitude; to be followed by seven years police supervision. The calendar of prisoners records his degree of instruction as 'imperfect'.³⁶ On 14 June 1878, he arrived at Pentonville Prison from Manchester City Prison and was photographed at Pentonville a week later.³⁷ The records of Pentonville Prison describe 'Frank alias Francis Dalby' as a member of the Church of England with three previous convictions and confirm that he was sent on to Brixton Prison on 18 February 1879.³⁸ In the 1881 census, Frank Dalby, aged 59 and born at Blaby, was enumerated as a convict at Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight. At the time, Parkhurst was used to house 'mentally unstable and physically infirmed' male prisoners serving long-term sentences.

The 1881 census includes Frank's wife, Lydia, a dressmaker, at 63 Queen Street, Leicester in the household of her daughter Louisa Clode, along with Emma Jane and Edwin and Louisa's four-year-old son Albert.

Extensive records survive of Frank's time in prison from 1878 onwards.³⁹ His penal record started by recording that he had eight children and that his wife Lydia was living at Belgrave Gate, Leicester. His own last place of abode before conviction was given as Higher Temple Street, Manchester. In addition to the previous convictions in 1860 and 1867, it noted he had been convicted in Birmingham for vagrancy. He stood 5 ft. 5¾ ins. tall when admitted to prison, with grey hair and eyes. Whilst in prison his weight without cap and boots fluctuated between 138 and 155 pounds. His 'distinctive marks and peculiarities' were recorded as:

'Scar right eyebrow. Mole left cheek near mouth. Right side: 1 vaccination mark 2 boil marks shoulder. Mole elbow outside. Cut 1 finger near knuckle joint. Bunion big toe. Left side: 1 vaccination mark. Scrofula near elbow. 2 scars shin inside. Big toe bent under the others.'

The dates of Frank's reception into each prison were:

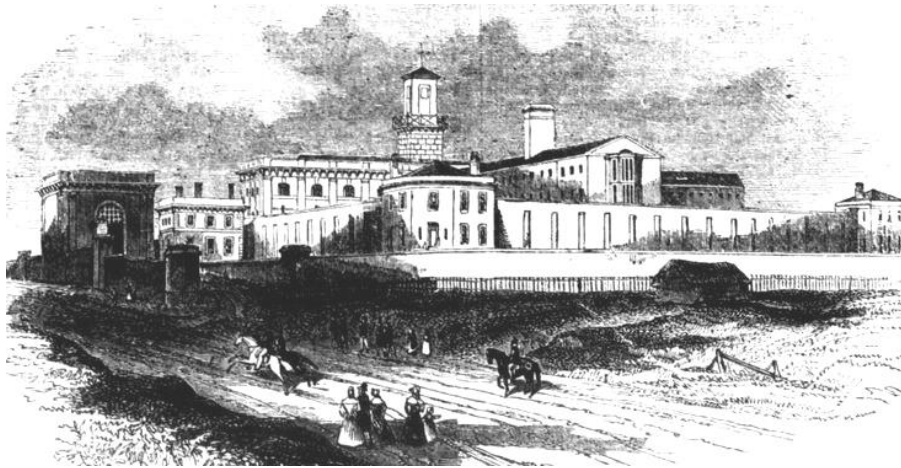
- Manchester – 5 March 1878
- Pentonville – 14 June 1878
- Brixton – 18 February 1879
- Parkhurst – 20 August 1879
- Pentonville – 1 October 1883

³⁶ TNA: HO140/42.

³⁷ TNA: PCOM2/99, number E534. Edwin Dalby recalled that his father had an auburn beard. The photograph is reproduced on the title page of this article.

³⁸ TNA: PCOM2/77, page 413, register number E534.

³⁹ TNA: PCOM3/633.



Pentonville Prison in 1842⁴⁰

Whilst in gaol, he was occupied in picking oakum, knitting and as a tailor. The only visit that Frank received during more than five years of incarceration was made by unnamed 'friends' on 21 May 1878 when he was at Manchester. During that period, he sent a total of ten outgoing letters, all of which were addressed to his son Arthur at 37 Burlington Street, Oxford Road, Manchester apart from one recorded as being to 'mother'. That was sent on 14 December 1878 and so could not have reached Francis' mother, who had died in 1874. The nine incoming letters addressed to him were all from Arthur, apart from one written on 23 September 1880 by his son Frank who was then living at 83 Preston Street, Hulme, Manchester. It is clear that by that stage Frank senior was estranged from his wife Lydia and probably from most of his children.

Frank's medical history when in prison described his health as 'middling' and remarked that he had been hurt on the railway. On arrival at Pentonville from Manchester his physical condition was described as 'spare but muscular', with eczema on the left forearm and hydrocele of the right testicle (hydrocele is a collection of fluid in the testicular sac). He was never in hospital whilst held at Pentonville, Brixton or Parkhurst but on 22 August 1879 the hydrocele was tapped and 11 ounces of clear serum withdrawn – not the most pleasant way to spend his 58th birthday.

When his discharge from prison was approaching, Frank asked for permission to take his spectacles with him. This resulted in a decision that he be provided with a new pair on account of his very good conduct, as the present ones were nearly worn out. Frank was released on licence on 3 October 1883, his destination being recorded as 'St Giles Mission'. St Giles Christian Mission ran 'Prison Gate' work from a hut outside Pentonville prison where newly discharged prisoners were offered breakfast and assistance, such as clothing and help in seeking a job as well as being encouraged to take the temperance pledge. This is the last record that has been found of Frank in England.

⁴⁰ https://archive.org/details/sim_illustrated-london-news_1842-08-13_1_14/page/216/mode/2up

At the time of the 1891 census, Lydia was described as a widow and was living with her son Edwin and his family at 217 Avenue Extension Road, Leicester. Lydia was admitted to Leicester Workhouse on 23 August 1893, where she died of paralysis on 20 December of the same year. Her burial at Welford Road Cemetery (unconsecrated T 1701) took place three days later. Whether or not she was aware of this, Lydia had not in fact been widowed when she was last recorded in a census.

America

Whilst Frank was in prison, he earned a series of marks and also qualified for a gratuity as a result of which it appears that he was discharged with a total of £6.0s.0d. Such a sum alone would have been sufficient for him to pay the fare to America; in the year he was finally released from prison, the Red Star Line was advertising steerage fares of £3.17s.6d from Liverpool Street in London all the way to Philadelphia.⁴¹ Edwin Dalby told his granddaughter Eileen that his father had set off for America but the family heard no more of him afterwards. In fact, he did arrive safely.

In 1880, Frank's brother-in-law John Branston (1830-1908) had been living at 1626 Deal Street, Philadelphia along with Eliza, his second wife, and his daughter Ann Eliza Branston (1860-1920) who was Frank's niece. It was doubtlessly the presence of these relatives in Philadelphia that attracted Frank to that part of the world. Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1887 lists Frank Dalby as a junk dealer living at 2772 Coral Street. The 1890 edition of the same publication, includes him as dealing in furniture at 5001 Hancock Street, Germantown.

Most records of individuals enumerated in the 1890 US census do not survive, but Gopsill's directories for 1892, 1893 and 1895 record Frank Dalby as a resident in the Old Man's Home. The Old Man's Home stood within the city block bounded by 39th Street, Powelton Avenue, Saunders Avenue and Baring Street. Most of the site is now laid out as Saunders Park, but one building that was formerly part of the Home survives at the corner of 39th and Baring Street. It is a four-story red brick edifice that now serves as the People's Emergency Center. Frank's death certificate gives his address as 'The Old Man's Home, 39th & Baring', which indicates that he lived in the building which survives.



Former Old Man's Home, 39th & Baring

⁴¹ *The Standard*, 31 December 1883, page 1 column 3.

The 1900 US census reported that the city of Philadelphia was home to almost 1.3 million people.⁴² Amongst those it listed was Frank Dalby, who had been born in England in August 1821 and was one of the inmates living at Block C of the Old Man's Home in Philadelphia. The date of birth leaves no room to doubt that he was the same person as Francis, the son of William and Ann Dalby of Blaby. The census recorded that he had arrived in the USA in 1882, but that detail cannot be precisely accurate as Frank was not released from Pentonville until late in the following year. In 1900, Frank's brother-in-law John Branston was living at 1620 East Eyre Street, which is about six miles from the Home.

Frank was still resident in the Old Man's Home on 24 November 1902 when he died there of septic poisoning. He was buried two days later about three miles away at Mount Moriah cemetery. The undertaker W Jas Attwood recorded Frank's occupation as a merchant.⁴³



Mount Moriah cemetery

⁴² *Population of Pennsylvania by counties and minor civil divisions.* (Washington DC, 1901).

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1900/bulletins/demographic/44-population-pa.pdf>

⁴³ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DTJQ-C16>

Children of Francis Dalby & Lydia Smith

John Edward Dalby (1844-1845)

The birth of John Edward Dalby (mother's maiden name Smith) was registered in September quarter 1844 at Leicester district. He was one year and four months old when he was buried on 16 November 1845 at the 'City Bunhill Burial Ground, or Golden Lane Cemetery' in London. More details about John Edward appear earlier in the text.

Augustus Frederick Dalby (1846-1938)

Augustus Frederick Dalby was born on 20 July 1846 at 90 Grove Street, Camden Town. The birth certificate confirms that his father was Francis Dalby, then working as a book carrier, and his wife Lydia (formerly Smith). At the time of the 1851 census, Augustus Frederick was living with his parents at 13 South Church Gate, Leicester.

In 1861, Frederick (as he was then recorded) was living with his parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury and worked as a labourer at a gas works.

On 9 August 1869, Augustus Frederick Dalby married Hannah Jephcott at Mount Zion Baptist chapel, Graham Street, Birmingham.⁴⁴ He was living at George Street West and his father's occupation given as a porter. Hannah had been born at Attenborough and was a daughter of John Jephcott, a watch maker, her home at the time of the marriage being in Edward Street.

The children of Augustus and Hannah's marriage were:

Name + Dalby	Born	Married	Died
Ada	1870	Tryal Bramley 1887	1938
Lucy Hannah	1872	n/a	1873
Frederick William	1875		
Lilian	1879	Thomas Dean Burton 1912	1973
Albert Edward	1884	Sarah Ann Steer Cox 1911	1962
Arthur Ernest	1887	n/a	1888

The 1871 census records Augustus and Hannah at 15 Holland Street, Birmingham with their 9-month-old daughter Ada and Hannah's brother Joseph Jephcott. Augustus' occupation was described as '*Lacquer manufacture employing 10 boys and girls*'. Ten years later, Augustus was working as a railway porter and lived with Hannah and their three surviving children at 157 Park Road, Aston.

By the time Albert Edward was born, the family had moved to Ellistown, Leicestershire. The 1891 census records Augustus, Hannah, their children and a lodger at 206 Clarkson's Row, White Hill. Both Augustus and his 16-year-old son Frederick were coal miners.

⁴⁴ An article about Charles Vince, the minister of Mount Zion Chapel when Augustus & Hannah were married there, provides pictures and other details of Mount Zion chapel:
<https://cemeteries.jewelleryquarter.net/charles-vince/>

Augustus was still working as a coal miner when the 1901 census took place. His home at Ibstock Road, Ellistown was shared with Hannah, Lilian and Albert as well as two boarders. In 1911, the same two children were living with Augustus and Hannah in a four-room house at Ellistown. The census return in that year confirms that Hannah had given birth to a total of six children and that four of them were still living.

The death of Hannah Dalby aged 64 was registered in December quarter 1915 at Ashby de la Zouche district.

Although almost 75 years old, in June 1921 Augustus was still at work, this time as an above-ground labourer employed by the Bagworth Colliery Company. He was living in a five-room house at 48 Whitehill Road, Ellistown in the household of his daughter Lilian and her husband.

His death certificate states that Frederick Augustus Dalby, aged 92, a retired coal miner (hewer), expired on 16 November 1938 at Beveridge Lane, Hugglescote, which is near Coalville. The cause of death was certified as cerebral haemorrhage, arteriosclerosis and senile decay. His son-in-law J D Burton of '*Beveridge Lane Bardon Hill*' was present at the death and informed the registrar.

Alfred William Dalby (1848-1921)

Alfred William Dalby was born on 15 July 1848 at '*James Street Augustin Street, All Saints Northampton*'. It may be that the names of both streets were reported because the family were then living on their corner where the two streets met. At that time, his father Francis was working as a porter at the railway station. The 1851 census records Alfred living with his parents at 13 South Church Gate, Leicester.

The 1861 records Alfred with his parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. He was working as a warehouseman and still living in what was by then the family home at 62 Graham Street Birmingham when the 1871 census took place.

On 16 March 1878, Alfred William Dalby aged 29, a bachelor and warehouseman, married Emma Elizabeth Cameron, a 23-year-old spinster at St George, Birmingham. Both gave their address as 10 Unett Street.

Alfred described his father as Frank Dalby and said that he was retired. Emma's father was recorded as '*James Cameron deceased, head manager South American Railway company*'. Both the bride & groom signed their names, as did the witnesses John Thomas Jeffries & Charlotte Cameron. No children have been found from the marriage. Nor have Alfred and Emma been found in the 1881 census.

Chadwick Street is less than half a mile west of the entrance to the Houses of Parliament. In 1891, No. 39 Chadwick Street was a building occupied by 14 households, each living in just one room. One of the rooms was home to Alfred and Emma Dalby, his occupation being recorded as metal merchant.

In 1901, Alfred and Emma were living at 5 Thomas Place (now Runcorn Place, Notting Dale), where they were one of the six households there which each occupied one room. Alfred was still described as a metal dealer and his birthplace mistakenly put down as Birmingham.

Whitechapel Infirmary was a separate building to the main workhouse and stood at the north corner of the roads now called Vallance Road and Lomas Street. On 17 March 1908, Emma, wife of Alfred Dalby (a hawker), was admitted as a patient to the Infirmary from the casual ward of the main Whitechapel workhouse. The reason for her admission was described as 'bad leg'. However, that was not the full story, as the hospital register states that she was discharged on 17 April of the same year to 'Banstead'. Banstead Mental Hospital had been opened in 1877 with room for 1,700 patients. It appears that Emma Dalby remained there for the final 16 years of her life. It was there that she died on 17 February 1924 of '*cardio vascular degeneration*'. The lunacy patients' admission register confirms that Emma Dalby, a patient at Banstead, was admitted on 17 April 1908 and died on 17 February 1924.⁴⁵

One day, probably within a few years of 1910, Ernest Edwin - the son of Alfred's brother Edwin - was walking on Clapham Common. He came across a man whose sales-pitch to passers-by involved him writing his own name on a blackboard. The surname was 'Dalby', so they compared notes. It transpired that the older man was an uncle whom Ernest had not previously heard of. He took the man back home and introduced him to Edwin, who had not been in contact with him for many years and was not impressed by his lowly state of life. They did not remain in contact. The only person who could have been this brother was Alfred.

Campbell Road (later renamed as Whadcoat Street and since totally swept way) was situated just west of Finsbury Park station, about five miles north of central London. The road had a most unfortunate history and has even, for all the wrong reasons, inspired a book about it.⁴⁶ Laid out in the 1860s, Campbell Road was developed piecemeal during the following 20 years, a period during which the street remained unpaved and unlighted and the houses, though fairly large, failed to attract occupiers who could afford to live anywhere more attractive. The 1911 census listed Alfred William Dalby (described as a 63-year-old warehouseman, born at Northampton) as one of the 94 inmates of a lodging house that comprised what had originally been separate properties at 35, 37, 39 & 49a Campbell Road.

'Victoria Homes for Working Men', a hostel at 177 Whitechapel Road, was established with the aim of providing a better class of accommodation than was usual for common lodging houses. During the First World War, the institution got into financial difficulties and was bought in 1919 by the Salvation Army as a going concern with 450 lodgers. It was renamed '*The Victoria Home*', charging five pence per night for a dormitory bed or seven pence for a private cubicle. By 1922 the site had accommodation for 540 with 128 private cubicles. Alfred William Dalby, still described as a hawker, was one of the lodgers present there when the census was held on 19 June 1921. He evidently did not move on during the remaining months of his life. On 21 December of the same year, he died of '*myocardial degeneration*'. The address on his death certificate is 74 Vallance Road, which means the infirmary of Whitechapel workhouse; the certificate described him as a hawker who normally lived at 177 Whitechapel Road. Insights into Victoria Home as it was before the building was demolished in 1994, including features dating back to Alfred's time, can be seen in an article in the Spitalfields Life collection.⁴⁷

Alfred Dalby from Whitechapel Infirmary was buried at the City of London cemetery, Little Ilford on 29 December 1921.

⁴⁵ TNA: MH94/43.

⁴⁶ *The worst street in North London* by Jerry White (London, 1986).

⁴⁷ *John Claridge at the Salvation Army* by The Gentle Author

<https://spitalfieldslife.com/2012/05/07/john-claridge-at-the-salvation-army/>

Arthur Henry Dalby (1850-1910)

The birth of Arthur Henry Dalby (mother's maiden name Smith) was registered in September quarter 1850 at Leicester. The 1851 census of 13 South Church Gate confirms that his father was Francis Dalby and that Arthur had been born at Leicester.

In 1861, Arthur was living with his parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. He was working as a goldsmith and still living in what was by then the family home at 62 Graham Street Birmingham when the 1871 census took place.

By the time he married Sarah Martha Barwick at St Mark's, Birmingham on 14 September 1874, Arthur was living at 7 Higher Temple Street, Manchester. The children of their marriage were:

Name + Dalby	Born	Married	Died
Francis Arthur	1876	Mary Anne Norbury 1898	1949
Winifred Patti	1877	n/a	1940
Charles Henry	1879	Daisy Louisa Nottingham 1913	1957
Nellie	1881	n/a	1889
Ethel Eveline	1883	Samuel James Payne 1902	1950
Florence	1886	Harry Gardner 1912 Frank Edwin Whitehead 1948	1952

By 1881, Arthur was working as a watchmaker and living with his wife and three children at 39 Burlington Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. The family were by then able to employ 14-year-old Maggie Sweeney as their resident servant. Arthur was still working as a watch maker ten years later and living in the same house, all five children being present but no resident servant. In 1901, Arthur and Sarah had still not moved home; only the two youngest children were still living with them.

The death of Arthur Henry Dalby aged 59 was registered in March quarter 1910 at Chorlton registration district. A monument to him stands in the Southern cemetery, Chorlton-cum-Hardy (nonconformist 841) and confirms that he died on 24 March of that year.⁴⁸

The 1911 census records Sarah and her daughter Florence living in two rooms at 48 Clewes Street, West Gorton. Sarah was running a watch maker and jewellery shop and Florence employed in dressmaking. At the time of the 1921 census, she was living at 22 Higson Avenue, Chorlton-cum-Hardy with her daughter Florence, her son-in-law Harry and grandson George Gardner.

The death of Sarah M Dalby aged 84 was registered in June quarter 1933 at the Manchester South district. A monument in the Southern cemetery states that she died on 27 May of that year.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/147566995/arthur-henry-dalby>

⁴⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162212998/sarah-martha-dalby>

Elizabeth Louisa "Betsey" Dalby (1852-1897)

When the birth of a daughter of Francis Dalby (a butcher) and Lydia Dalby formerly Smith who was born at Gartree Street, Leicester on 24 May 1852 was registered one week later, her mother reported the child's name as 'Betsey'. However, records made on other occasions refer to her as 'Louisa' and 'Elizabeth Louisa'.

At the time of the 1861 census, 'Betsy Dalby' was living with both parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. She was recorded with the same name in the 1871 census when she was still living in the family home which was then at 62 Graham Street, Birmingham.

In 1881, she was recorded as the head of the household at 63 Queen Street, Leicester. Going by the name 'Louie Clode', she stated she was married and that she worked as a fitter of boots. The others present there were her son Albert (aged 4 and born at Coventry), her mother Lydia and her siblings Emma J and Edwin.

The 1891 census recorded Louie Clode and her son Albert as living at a 2-room house at 2 Maples Cottages, Curzon Street, Leicester. She was described as a widow and Albert as aged 15 and born at Birmingham. It appears that the birth of her son was registered in March quarter 1877 at Coventry as Albert William Clode, with the mother's maiden name indexed as 'Davis'. No record has been found of the parents' marriage or of the father's death. However, when Albert William Clode married Millicent Jane Chapman at St George's Leicester on 2 September 1903 his father was recorded as William Clode who had been a jeweller but was by then deceased.

The death of Albert William Close aged 32 was registered in 1909 at Christchurch district in Hampshire. The record of probate granted on 5 April that year gave his address as Maxwell Villa, 48 Middle Road, Bournemouth and described him as a retired shoe clicker, with effects valued at £182.6s. When completing the census schedule for that address in 1911, Millicent stated that there had been no children of her marriage. She did not marry again. Millicent died on 7 February 1953 at Royal Victoria Hospital Boscombe, her final address being 48 Robert Louis Stevenson Avenue Bournemouth.

When her mother Lydia Dalby was buried at Welford Road cemetery in 1893, Louisa Clode was registered as the owner of that freehold grave at section T, number 1701 in the unconsecrated part. On 6 September 1897, Elizabeth Louisa Clode aged 45 of Graham Street herself was buried in the same grave.

Lydia Sarah Ann "Annie" Dalby (1854-1936)

Lydia Sarah Ann Dalby was born at Foundry Lane, Millbank (now part of Southampton) on 25 November 1854. Her father was at that stage working as a gardener. The 1861 census recorded Sarah A Dalby aged 5 as living with both parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. Her name was recorded as Sarah Dalby in the 1871 census when she was still living in the family home at 62 Graham Street, Birmingham.



Lydia Sarah Ann Dalby

The marriage of John Samuel Goode and Lydia Sarah A Dalby was registered in December quarter 1876 at Birmingham. Their children were:

Name + Goode	Born	Married	Died
John Archibald	c.1878	Kate Maria Hearn 1910	1931 Croydon
George Frederick	1879	Eliza Alice Chatterton 1905	1936 West Brompton
Horace Dalby	c.1883	Primrose Self 1913	1936 Bath
Mabel Elsie	1885	n/a	1889 Lambeth
Harold Adolphus	1887	Minnie Adkins 1912	1965 Kalk Bay, South Africa
Edgar Anthony	1891	Gertrude Kreitz	1974 North Vancouver, Canada

In 1881, John and Lydia were living at 1 Meyrick Road, Battersea, along with their two oldest sons and two visitors. John's occupation was recorded by the census as a commercial clerk. The birthplaces recorded for their children indicate that the family moved from Birmingham to Walworth in south London around 1878-9.

The 1891 census records the Goode family living in four rooms at 31 Union Street, Lambeth. John was then working as a rent collector and builder's clerk. Ten years later, they had moved to 16 Crampton Street, Newington where the parents, their five surviving children and a lodger lived in the major part of the house (two rooms were used by another couple). John was still working as a rent collector.

John Samuel Goode remained at 16 Crampton Street for the remainder of his life. He died on 9 October 1907 and was buried at West Norwood cemetery three days later. Probate was granted to his widow; the effects being valued at £522.1s.7d. By the time of the 1911 census, Lydia had moved to live in four of the eight rooms at 6 Wiltshire Road, Brixton. She shared the

accommodation with her youngest son Edgar, who was working as an audit clerk; on that occasion signed the census schedule as 'Annie Goode'.



78 Hayter Road

The 1919 electoral register includes Lydia, her son George Frederick and his wife Eliza Alice at 78 Hayter Road, Brixton. Lydia appears at that address in later editions of the register down to and including 1935. The 1921 census records Lydia as living in two rooms at 78 Hayter Road, Brixton. The other five rooms in the house were the home of her son George, his wife and three children. Lydia's son John and his family were living nearby at 73 Sudbourne Road. Meanwhile, some seven miles from Hayter Road, Harold, Minnie and two children were to be found at 6 Woodside Court Road, Croydon. In that year, Horace, whose activities during the previous ten years had taken him to Russia and Denmark, was living with his family and two resident servants in Bournemouth. Edgar had probably already departed abroad; he died in British Columbia in 1974.

The death of Lydia Sarah Anne Goode aged 79 was registered in June quarter 1936 at Lambeth.

Frances Ann Dalby (1856-1856)

The birth of Frances Anne Dalby (mother's maiden name Smith) was registered in December quarter 1856 at Leicester district. Her death was registered there in the same quarter. The records of Welford Road cemetery include the burial on 16 December 1856 of Frances Ann Dalby, aged one month, from 3 Church Street, St George's parish. She was buried in the unconsecrated section of the cemetery, section O, plot number 75, burial number 4525. On the same day, an unnamed new-born female child who had been found in a privy at Jarrom Street was buried in the same grave.

Frank Dalby (c.1858-1919)

The birth of Frank Dalby (mother's maiden name Smith) was registered in March quarter 1858 at Leicester. The registration of births did not necessarily take place immediately after the event, so it is possible he may have been born late in 1857.

The 1861 census records Frank living with both parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. Ten years later, he was with the family at 62 Graham Street, Birmingham.

The 1881 census records him as a boarder in the house of Elizabeth Evans at 181 Tower Road, Aston; at that stage Frank was working as a watch, clock and jewellery repairer. On 4 December of the same year, he married Emily Keating at St Philip Birmingham (now Birmingham Cathedral). For both it was their first marriage. Frank stated that his father was Frank Dalby, a gas fitter, not mentioning that he was in prison at that time. Frank junior was living at Great Hampton Row and working as a tool setter. Emily's home was at Conybere Street and she described her father as John Keatley, a store keeper. Louise Dalby and John Keating also signed the marriage register as witnesses.

Frank - then described as a toolmaker - and Emily were still living in Aston in 1891, their address being 249 Burbury Street, Lozells Road. A four-room house at 5 Sandown Grove, Aston was their home in 1901, with Frank's occupation recorded as 'press tool maker & fitter'. They were living at the same address when Frank completed and signed the census schedule in 1911. A new question on that occasion was how many children were born alive to the current marriage and how many were still living. Frank's answer to the first of these questions was 'none'.

It was probably in 1915, that Frank's nephew Ernest Edwin, along with his wife and baby daughter Eileen stayed with the couple at Aston for about a month. Eileen recalled being told the presence of a young child in their home was a welcome novelty for Frank and Emily. They were less impressed that Ernest did not trouble to write to thank them afterwards. This led to a reproachful letter from Frank to his brother Edwin who in turn was displeased at the reason for the first letter that he had received from Frank for a matter of years.

Frank was a keen member of the Baptist church. He died at home on 10 September 1919 as the result of '(1) Apoplexy (Cerebral Haemorrhage) (2) Paralysis'. The certificate states that his place of death was '5 Back 7 Lozells Road Aston Manor', which appears to be an alternative description of the address that was recorded in the 1911 census as 5 Sandown Grove.

In 1921, Emily was still in residence at the address shown on Frank's death certificate. She remained in the Birmingham area, where her own death at the age of 77 was registered in March quarter 1937. Both Frank and Emily are buried at Handsworth cemetery.⁵⁰

Emma Jane Dalby (1860-1943)

Emma Jane, daughter of Francis Dalby (a porter) & Lydia Dalby formerly Smith was born on 4 May 1860 at a dwelling with the address 'back of 16 Harford Street', Birmingham.

At the time of the 1861 census, she was living with both parents and six siblings at Bromford Road, Oldbury. Ten years later, she was with the family at 62 Graham Street, Birmingham and in 1881, by then working in the fancy hosiery trade, was living with her mother and other members of the family at 63 Queen Street, Leicester.

On 25 December 1881, Emma Jane Dalby married William Hewitt at St Paul's, Leicester. Their children were:

Name + Hewitt	Born	Married	Died
Lydia Ada Beatrice	1882	William Baxter 1906	1918
Francis William Vivian	1886	Alice Robinson 1913	1961
Eveleen Elsie	c.1891	Arthur Edward Talbott 1917 Alfred Swingler 1955	1983
Mabel Dorothy	1894	Tom Walsom 1915 Albert E Bull 1949	1963
Charles William	1897	Elsie Lowe 1923	1987

⁵⁰ <https://birminghamburialrecords.co.uk/>

At the time of the 1891 census, Emma and William with their three oldest children were living at 45 Coventry Street, Leicester. Ten years later, the family had moved to 24 Tyrrell Street and in 1911 were living in a six-room house at 27 Barclay Street. Coventry, Tyrrell and Barclay Streets were all within a short distance of each other, west of the River Soar.

William Hewitt from the Royal Infirmary was buried on 3 March 1919 at Welford Road cemetery in the freehold grave already housing his mother-in-law and his sister-in-law Elizabeth Louisa Clode (burial number 106930).

The 1921 census records the inhabitants of 27 Barclay Street as Tom and Mabel Dorothy Walson and their daughter Dorothy Joyce, as well as Emma Jane Hewitt and her youngest child, Charles William.

The 1939 population register lists Emma J Hewitt, a widow born on 4 May 1860, at 25 Harlaxton Street, which is between Narborough Road and Braunston Park. The house was also home to a household consisting of two ladies, neither of whom seem to be closely related to Emma.

Hillcrest hospital was recorded as her last residence when Emma Jane Dalby aged 83 was buried on 27 December 1943 at Welford Road cemetery (burial number 128421) in the same grave as her husband. Hillcrest hospital was the name adopted for the premises in Sparkenhoe Street, formerly Leicester workhouse, where Emma's mother had died in 1893.

Edwin Dalby (1864-1936)



Edwin Dalby & Mary Fearey c.1888

Edwin, the youngest child of Francis & Lydia Dalby, was born on 9 May 1864 at 150 Icknield Street East, Ladywood, Birmingham. His father was then working as a county court bailiff.

When talking with his granddaughter Eileen, Edwin did not have a great deal to say about his father who he recalled as having an auburn beard and said that he had last seen when he was about four years old. He did, however, know that his father had set off for America. It is, however, clear that Edwin was living under the same roof as Francis for some time after the age of four, as the 1871 census includes Edwin in the household of his parents and six of his siblings at 62 Graham Street, Birmingham. By the 1881 census, his father was in prison and Edwin was to be found at 63 Queen Street, Leicester with his mother, a married sister and her husband and another sister. Edwin was working as a 'counter hand'. At some stage early in his life, Edwin appears to have lived at Loughborough as he recalled walking into Leicester from there for work.

Edwin Dalby married Mary Fearey at Dover Street Baptist Church, Leicester on 21 May 1888. Mary had been born at Heckington, Lincolnshire on 30 October 1866, the seventh of eight children of William Fearey (1831-1880) and his wife Ann Colby (1832-1913). The church at

Dover Street was not licenced for the solemnisation of marriages, so it was necessary for a registrar to be present. On the date that was originally set for the wedding, that person did not arrive, so the ceremony had to be postponed. The church building has since been much altered and is now the home of The Little Theatre.⁵¹



At the time of their marriage, Edwin was living at 25 Clara Street and Mary was at Fernleigh, Kirby Muxloe - the left half of a pair of semi-detached houses which still stand on the north-east side of Station Road (pictured to the left). They were built in 1880 by James Turner, an elastic web maker who lived at Fernleigh until 1898.⁵² At the time of the 1891 census, the other members of James' household were his wife, father-in-law, five children and one domestic servant. So, it is likely that Mary had been kept quite busy ministering to their needs.

Edwin and Mary had one child - Ernest Edwin, born on 12 August 1890 at 217 Avenue Extension Road, Knighton, Leicester. Edwin Dalby is listed in the same road as a boot repairer in the 1889/90 edition of C N Wright's Directory of Leicester.



Avenue Road Extension in 1911

⁵¹ <https://thelittletheatre.co.uk/>

⁵² *Old Kirby Muxloe* by Jonathan Wilshire (Leicester, 1986), pages 19, 23 & 24.

When Edwin registered his mother's death, which took place at Leicester workhouse on 20 December 1893, his home was recorded as 45 Coventry Street, Leicester. This was the address where his sister Jane Emma Hewitt and her family were living at the time of the 1891 census; whether Edwin and family succeeded them there or shared that house with them is not known.

Edwin's family moved from Leicester to London about 1900. He was probably the person referred to as 'Dalby' who was part of a team from Hawkstone Hall Chess Club at a four-board competition with Kennington Chess Club held at Hawkstone Hall on 18 January 1900.⁵³ A keen chess player, Edwin won a number of trophies over the years.

The 1901 census recorded Edwin, Mary and Ernest living in three rooms at 70 Lower Kennington Lane, with Edwin working as a life insurance agent. In 1905 electoral register Edwin Dalby appears only a short distance from there at 15 Alberta Street, Penton Place, Newington. Penton Place was also very close to 16 Crampton Street, Walworth, where Edwin's sister Lydia and her family were living in 1901 and remained until after her husband's death in 1907. Almost certainly the reason for Edwin moving to that particular part of London was the presence of his sister 'Annie' who he said had played a large part in bringing him up.

From 1906 to 1911, Edwin was registered to vote from the address 52 Robsart Street, Brixton. The Post Office Directory for 1906/7 lists him there as a confectioner. Mary ran the shop and Edwin continued working as a life assurance agent. He appears at the same address with the latter description in the 1911/2 edition of that directory and likewise in the 1911 census which stated that the property had five rooms.

Mary Dalby suffered from cancer of the throat. An operation was not successful; she died at 52 Robsart Street on 26 June 1910 and was buried at Streatham Park Cemetery (grave no. 4300 square 2).

On 23 April 1914, Edwin was recorded as living at 195 Kennington Road when he married Alice Mary Harris, a shopkeeper who was about nine years his junior, at St Philip, Kennington. Alice was the daughter of Edward Graves, a grocer and had also been widowed in 1910. It was planned that when Edwin and Alice returned from their honeymoon, pieces of their wedding cake would be distributed to those invited who had not been able to attend the ceremony. However, by that stage, Alice's 14-year-old daughter had consumed it all.

Edwin and Alice lived initially at her home at 78 Lower Kennington Lane. Later, they moved to 72 Doddington Grove, Kennington, a nine-room property where they were present when the census was taken in June 1921. Edwin was working as an agent of the Royal Liver Friendly Society and his step-daughter Ethel as a typist at the Air Ministry. Louise Anderson, who had the same occupation and employer, was present as a 'visitor', as was Theodora Copeland, a lady whose occupation was recorded as a 'mummer'.

⁵³ *South London Mail* 27 January 1900, page 3 column 5.

Electoral registers indicate that Edwin and Alice were living at 72 Doddington Grove at least from 1919 to 1931. Edwin then rented out that property and they moved further away from central London to 14 Melrose Avenue, Norbury.



14 Melrose Avenue

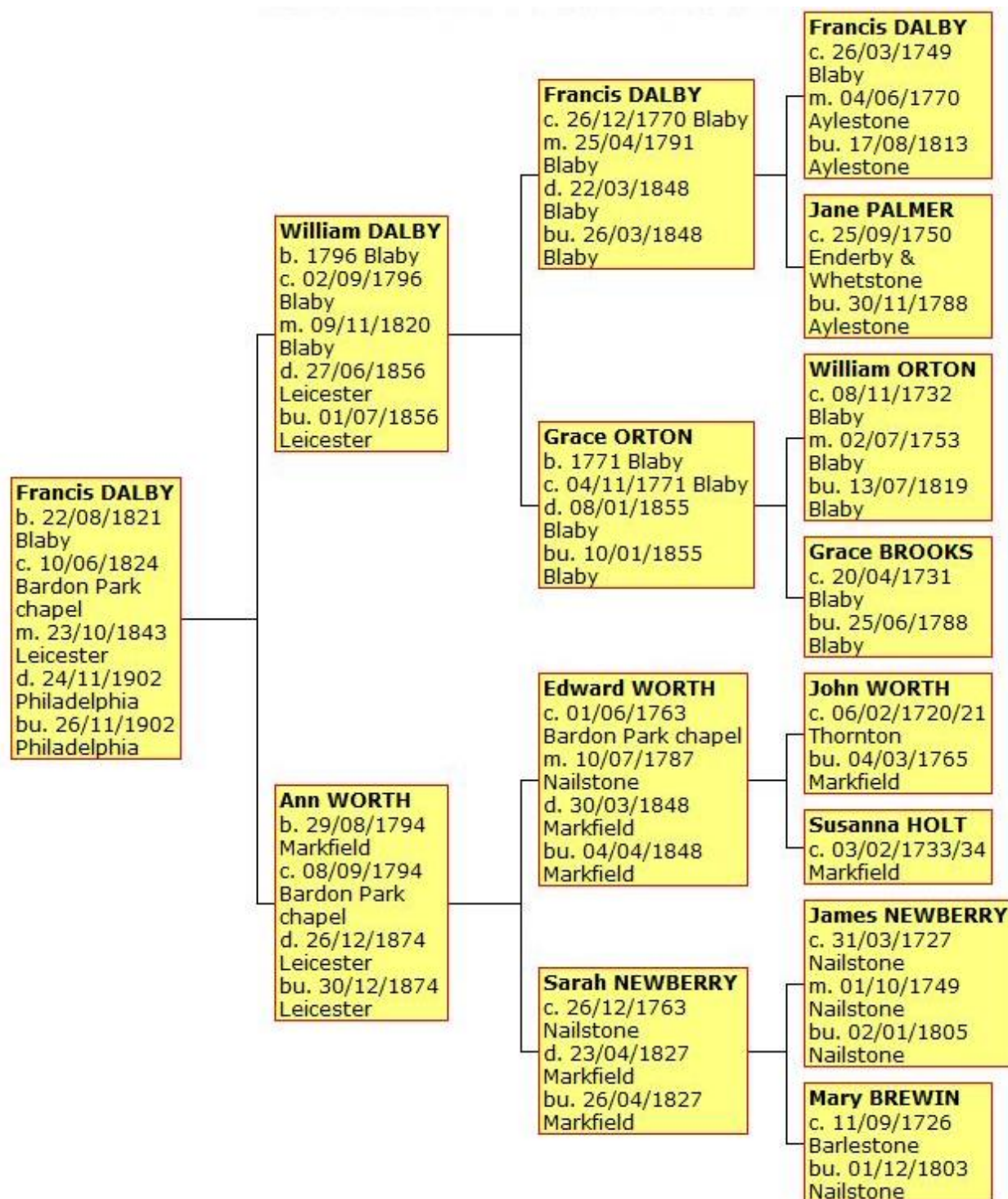
In the latter part of his life, Edwin suffered from Parkinson's disease and cancer of the colon. There was talk of him possibly moving to the forthrightly-named British Home & Hospital for Incurables at Crown Lane near Upper Norwood but this did not happen. His wife became ill when pushing him in a wheelchair and they were both taken to hospital. Probably recalling the final stage of his mother's life, Edwin remarked sadly that he was now in the workhouse. He was transferred to be cared for at the house of a nurse who lived at 47 Abercairn Road, Streatham and there he died on 31 August 1936. In his final hours, it was 'Mary' whom Edwin called for. He was buried along with his first wife at Streatham Park Cemetery.

On 27 October 1936, Edwin's will was proved and probate granted to his son Ernest Edwin, the effects being valued at £772.4s.7d. Alice Dalby did not long survive her husband, but died at Croydon General Hospital on 23 September 1936. Her will was proved on 22 January of the following year and administration granted to Ethel Mary Harris (1899-1975), the daughter by her first marriage. Alice's effects were valued as a total of £202.1s.4d.

Further generations

The 25 grandchildren of Francis and Lydia who are mentioned above is a complete or almost complete roll call. By no means all of the members of subsequent generations have been identified. The descendants who have been found include people who have lived for at least a year as far afield as places whose current names are Australia, Canada, China, France, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Appendix A: Ancestry of Francis Dalby



b.=born c.=baptised m.=married d.=died bu.=buried
 Apart from Philadelphia, all places are in Leicestershire.

Appendix B: Statutory Declaration of John Dalby, 1875

Dated 15th May 1875 – Statutory Declaration of Mr John Dalby as to the children of Ann Dalby

I John Dalby of Blaby in the County of Leicester, Frameworkknitter Do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows that is to say

- 1. I am now in the eighty first year of my age and have lived at Blaby aforesaid all my life*
- 2. My late Brother William Dalby intermarried with Ann Worth the Daughter of Edward Worth of haw Lane in the Parish of Markfield in the County of Leicester Farmer (the said Ann Worth being then a Spinster) at the Parish Church of Blaby aforesaid on the ninth day of November One thousand eight hundred and twenty – I was present at such Marriage*
- 3. There was issue of the said Marriage four children and no more namely (1) Francis Dalby who was born on the twenty second day of August One thousand eight hundred and twenty (2) William Dalby who was born on the twenty second day of December One thousand eight hundred and twenty three (3) Sarah Ann Dalby who was born on the thirtieth say of September One thousand eight hundred and thirty two and (4) Betsey Dalby who was born on the sixth day of August One thousand eight hundred and thirty six and died shortly after her birth and was buried at the Baptist Chapel Burying Ground at Blaby aforesaid. The said four children were all born at Blaby aforesaid but were not baptised at the Parish Church their parents being Baptists.*
- 4. I have been informed and verily believe that the said Sarah Ann Dalby intermarried with John Branston at Saint Mary's Church in the Borough of Leicester on the nineteenth day of January One thousand eight hundred and fifty eight and that they shortly afterwards went to America. There was an as I have bene informed and verily believe issue of the same Marriage one child only and no more namely Annie Branston who is still living and is of the age of fifteen years or thereabouts. The said Sarah Ann Branston as I have been informed and verily believe died on or about the sixteenth day of July One thousand eight hundred and sixty six at Germantown near Philadelphia in the United States of America. The said John Branston is still living.*
- 5. My said Brother William Dalby died on the twenty seventh day of June One thousand eight hundred and fifty six and was buried at the Leicester Cemetery. His widow the said Ann Dalby never married again and died on the twenty sixth day of December One thousand eight hundred and seventy four and was buried at the Leicester Cemetery aforesaid.*
And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the fifth and sixth years of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth intituled "An Act to repeal An Act of the present Session of Parliament intituled An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the State and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths"

The mark X of John Dalby

Declared and made at Blaby in the County of Leicester this fifteenth day of May 1875, this declaration having in my presence previously rad over to the abovenamed John Dalby who appeared perfectly to understand the same and made his mark thereto in my presence

[signed] Jno B Horby

A Commissioner to administer Oaths in Chancery in England

Appendix C: Advertisement for auction of property at Markfield, 1872

**FREEHOLD
LAND.
MARKFIELD
LEICESTERSHIRE.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY

MESSRS. DAVENPORT, GERMAN, & ALLEN,

*On TUESDAY, the 2nd day of JANUARY, 1872,
At the "GEORGE" INN, in MARKFIELD aforesaid,
At Six o'clock in the Evening, and subject to such Conditions as will
be then produced:—*

**ONE EQUAL UNDIVIDED THIRD PART OR SHARE
OF AND IN
ALL THOSE THREE CLOSES**

or Pieces of Land, situate at Cart Ruts or Rice Rocks,
in Markfield aforesaid, containing together 8A. 2R. 21P. or
thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. EDWIN
WILLETT, of Stanton-under-Bardon.

 *The Share will be offered for Sale subject to the Life Interest
therein of a Female now aged 77 Years or thereabouts.*

The Tenant will show the Land, and any further Information
may be obtained of the AUCTIONEERS, and of

MESSRS. E. & T. FISHER,
SOLICITORS,
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

BARKER, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, AND STATIONER, ASHBY.

Appendix D: Letter from Francis Dalby, 1876⁵⁴

Feb 9 1876
3 Chancery St
Leicester

Sir

Having seen my Brother i Learn from him that you have kindly condesended for me to confess to you the Deep sorry that i feel in my Past conduct Towards you and I humbley hope that you will forgive me and if it Should Please you to Permit me to see you if you would Please to appoint a time and Place for me to see you I shall Ever Return you my most Sincere Thanks.

Your Humble

Servant

Francis Dalby

Appendix E: Extract from 'Manchester Times' (9 March 1878)

At the City Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr F J Headlam, Frank Dalby, bailiff, lodging at No. 29, Higher Temple-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, was charged with stealing a quantity of property from houses which he had visited as a bailiff to make distrains. Mr. A. T. H. Evans as appeared to prosecute in three cases, the circumstances as alleged by the prosecution being as follow: - On the 20th December last the prisoner went to the house of George Hunter, comedian, Hughes-street, West Derby Road, Liverpool, to distrain for rent. In addition to the goods which were subsequently sold by auction, he took with him property which was not mentioned in the auctioneer's inventory. This property he carried away in his pocket, remarking to the man whom he left in possession that the things, which were principally glass, would not be safe in the cart. He afterwards gave the goods to a Mrs. Crowther, living in Potter-street, Hulme, telling her that he had bought them in Liverpool. On the 16th of October in last year the prisoner took possession of the house of Joseph Wilson Hilton, shopkeeper, Butler-street, Greenheys, under a bill of sale. Goods were seized and sold by auction, but in addition to these Mr Hilton missed an opera glass and a strap and book. When the prisoner was apprehended a pawnticket relating to the opera glass was found in his possession, and the book and strap were discovered in his lodgings. On the 28th January the prisoner distrained upon the property of an old widow named Mary Ann Gardiner, living in Gorton, for rent. The amount owing was 11s. and the allegation is that the prisoner almost stripped the house and sold the goods himself, realising a sum over and above the amount required, for which he never accounted. When the prisoner was before the court on Friday last, Mr. Evans stated that he should think that he could find fifty other cases against the prisoner. - Mr. Marshall, solicitor, also prosecuted the prisoner for stealing a private account book, the property of William Kirk, formerly bar manager at the Corporation Hotel, Chapel-street, Salford. The prisoner, who was stated to have been twice convicted of felony, was committed for trial at the sessions.

⁵⁴ ROLLR: DG9/348.